

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119174

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BNDD BELGRADE, JUNE  
15, FROM PARIS RPTD TO YOU:  
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16544

BNDD FOR BELK I/ A AND AMEMB BELGRADE FOR DR. BOURNE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TGEN FR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: FRENCH USE OF PAPAVER BRACTEATUM

REF: A. STATE 098883; B. PARIS 14977; C. STATE 113960

SUMMARY: CLIN- BYLA ( FRANCO- PAVOT) PURSUING LIMITED EXPERI-  
MENTAL RESEARCH IN GROWTH ( ONE HECTARE), CULTIVATION, AND  
EXTRACTION BRACTEATUM. COMPANY PROCESS TO CONVERT THEBAINE  
TO CODEINE IS COMMERCIAL. CLIN- BYLA OFFICIALS CONCERNED  
OVER PURPOSE OF USG INQUIRY. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES AND GOF  
OFFICIAL SUGGEST FALL MEETING WOULD BE MORE INFORMATIVE FOR  
U. S. OFFICIALS. ACTION REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. SCIATT CONTACTED MESSRS. DUMONT, CANDILLON, AND BOURGNE OF  
CLIN- BYLA ( PARENT COMPANY OF FRANCO- PAVOT) TO PURSUE QUESTIONS  
POSED PARA 3, REF A. DUMONT' S RESPONSES AS FOLLOWS:  
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A. COMPANY IS ACTIVELY PURSUING RESEARCH IN GROWTH, CULTIVATION OF BRACTEATUM, ALTHOUGH THIS IS STILL A STRICTLY EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM. LESS THAN ONE HECTARE IS PLANTED THIS YEAR.

B. COMPANY HAS IMPORTED BRACTEATUM, BUT HAS MADE NO IMPORTS IN 1973 BECAUSE BRACTEATUM IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. ( SINCE BRACTEATUM CAN BE CULTIVATED ONLY ONCE A YEAR, WITH HARVEST LATE JUNE - EARLY JULY IN IRAN, AND LATE JULY IN FRANCE, NONE WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR IMPORT BEFORE MID- JULY.) DUMONT IMPLIED COMPANY HAS PLACED BIDS FOR PARTS OF IRANIAN CROP, BUT IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS BECAUSE THESE BIDS IN CURRENT COMPETITION WITH U. S. PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS ALSO SEEKING IRANIAN BRACTEATUM. COMPLETE FIGURES ON IMPORTS- EXPORTS PRODUCTION, AND USE WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NEXT UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON BRACTEATUM IN FALL ( PARA 3).

C. THE EXTRACTION OF THEBAINE FROM BRACTEATUM IS ALSO STILL AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM AND WILL REMAIN SO FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. COMPANY HAS GREAT HOPES FOR EVENTUAL COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF TOTAL GROWTH AND EXTRACTION PROCESS.

D. THEBAINE IS CONVERTED TO CODEINE BY CLIN- BYLA AT A CURRENT RATE OF ABOUT 1500 KG CODEINE PER YEAR. THE COMPANY HOLDS INTERNATIONAL PATENTS ON THE PROCESS AND IS INTERESTED IN SECURING U. S. LICENSEES. NOTE THAT THE THEBAINE FOR THIS COMMERCIAL CONVERSION IS OBTAINED BY THE SELECTIVE EXTRACTION OF OPIUM AND NOT FROM BRACTEATUM.

3. IF U. S. INTEREST IS SPECIFICALLY IN RESEARCH COOPERATION OR IN PROCESS LICENSING, COMPANY WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS BRACTEATUM NOW WITH U. S. OFFICIALS. DUMONT NOTES THAT THERE ARE TEN CENTERS IN U. S. CURRENTLY EXPERIMENTING WITH BRACTEATUM. COMPANY STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON PRODUCTION OR CULTIVATION INFORMATION BEFORE END OF JULY PREMATURE, AND NOTED THAT JUNE AND JULY ARE FOR THEM VERY HECTIC MONTHS. COMPANY SUGGESTS MEETING WITH SAODAP OFFICIALS AT UN MEETING ON BRACTEATUM ( PARA 4).

2. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATIONS, WHILE PROVIDING ABOVE INFORMATION, COMPANY OFFICIALS DEMONSTRATED CLEAR CONCERN OVER PURPOSE OF U. S. CONFIDENTIAL

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INQUIRY AND FEAR OF COMPROMISE OF COMPANY COMMERCIAL POSITION.

3. SCIATT ALSO MET WITH M. FRANCKFORT, PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION AND CONTROL, WHO REAFFIRMED ABOVE INFORMATION. BEFORE AGREEING TO MEET WITH DR. BOURNE, FRANCKFORT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW SPECIFIC USG INTERESTS

IN BRACTEATUM. FRANCKFORT POINTS OUT THAT NO FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON  
PRODUCTION OR IMPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FORE END OF HARVEST.

4. BOTH DUMONT AND FRANCKFORT CITED UN- SPONSORED MEETING ON  
BRACTEATUM OF SEPTEMBER 1972 AS HAVING THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED  
BRACTEATUM PRODUCTION, SUPPLY, AND COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES  
( UNCLASSIFIED UN PAPER ST/ SOA/ SER. J/1 OF 12 JANUARY 1973  
ENTITLED " SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON PAPAVER BRACTEATUM" IS THE  
MEETING REPOR T). THE NEXT MEETING, WHICH WILL DISCUSS  
1973 HARVEST AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED  
BY CLIN- BYLA STAFF, IS TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 1973. UN PAPER GIVES  
TEHRAN AS TENTATIVE SITE. DUMONT AND FRANCKFORT SUGGEST SAODAP  
REPRESENTATION AT THIS MEETING.

5. UNLESS SAODAP INTEREST IS IN RESEARCH COOPERATION PROGRAM  
OR PROCESS LICENSING, EMBASSY SUGGESTS APPROACH TO COMPANY  
AND GOF OFFICIALS BE MADE AT UN- SPONSORED MEETING WHEN FURTHER  
INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AND WHEN COMMECIAL SENSITIVITIES  
WILL BE LESS ENCUMBERING. IF STOPOVER PARIS JUNE 25 CONVENIENT  
TO DR. BOURNE, EMBASSY NARCOTICS OFFICIALS WOULD APPRECIATE  
CONSULTATION. DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM EMBASSY PLANS OF  
DR. BOURNE.  
IRWIN

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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